



Homeland
Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report

24 August 2015

Top Stories

- Officials reported that toxic smoke was still wafting through the area after fire crews contained an August 21 fire at Alco Metal & Iron Company on Mare Island in California. – *San Francisco Chronicle* (See item [3](#))
- New York health officials announced August 20 that an outbreak of Legionnaires' disease was officially over, and revealed that a cooling tower at the Opera House Hotel was responsible for releasing the bacteria. – *New York Daily News* (See item [15](#))
- Fire crews battled at least 15 fires in Washington that have combined, burned over 400,000 acres by August 21, destroyed at least 100 homes and structures, and prompted the evacuation of thousands of residents. – *Los Angeles Times* (See item [18](#))
- About 13 buildings in Los Angeles remained without power August 21 due to an explosion at a high-rise building that left 4 people injured August 20. – *KNBC 4 Los Angeles* (See item [27](#))

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Energy Sector

1. *August 20, KGBT 4 Harlingen* – (Texas) **After thunderstorms, nearly 22,000 without power across the Rio Grande Valley.** Heavy thunderstorms knocked out power for nearly 22,000 customers in the Rio Grande Valley area August 20.

Source: <http://www.valleycentral.com/news/story.aspx?id=1244347>

Chemical Industry Sector

2. *August 20, WTHI 10 Terre Haute* – (Indiana) **Hydrite agrees to partial shut down during THQMA events.** Hydrite Chemical Co., officials reported that production will temporary stop from the piece of equipment that leaked sulfur dioxide at the Terre Haute facility the weekend of August 15, causing a nearby race track to evacuate, and sending 20 people to hospital. The shutdown will run from noon to midnight on race days.

Source: <http://wthitv.com/2015/08/20/hydrite-agrees-to-partial-shut-down-during-thqma-events/>

Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

Nothing to report

Critical Manufacturing Sector

3. *August 21, San Francisco Chronicle* – (California) **Toxic smoke scare after Vallejo metal recycling plant burns.** Officials reported that toxic smoke was still wafting through the area after fire crews contained an August 21, 3-alarm fire at Alco Metal & Iron Company on Mare Island in California that destroyed a warehouse full of propane tanks, batteries, generators, and other electronic waste, and prompted the brief closure of Highway 37 due to smoke.

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/Ferocious-blaze-at-Vallejo-metal-plant-still-6457422.php>

Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report

Financial Services Sector

4. *August 21, South Florida Sun-Sentinel* – (Florida) **‘Filter Bandit’ robs eighth bank, is considered armed and dangerous, says FBI.** The FBI is offering a \$5,000 reward leading to the arrest and conviction of a suspect dubbed the “Filter Bandit” who has allegedly stolen over \$60,000 from 6 South Florida banks since August 2014, including a SunTrust Bank in Coral Springs August 20. The suspect is considered armed and dangerous.

Source: <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/local/broward/fl-filter-bandit-strikes-again-20150820-story.html>

5. *August 20, Associated Press* – (Virginia; Texas) **Alexandria man pleads guilty in tax refund fraud scheme.** An Alexandria, Virginia man pleaded guilty August 19 to charges related to a \$20 million fraud scheme in which he allegedly submitted false sales claims and tax refunds to Virginia and Texas State tax authorities on behalf of 2 Ryan LLC corporate clients.
Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/alexandria-man-pleads-guilty-in-tax-refund-fraud-scheme/2015/08/20/f4dd3336-473b-11e5-9f53-d1e3ddfd0cda_story.html
6. *August 20, Manassas Patch* – (Virginia) **Ex-fugitive pleads guilty to \$7.4M mortgage fraud.** The former operator of Vilchez & Associates, Pino Title, and a branch of Mount Vernon Capital Corp., pleaded guilty August 18 following extradition from Peru to charges connected to a mortgage fraud scheme in which the suspect and co-conspirators allegedly submitted fraudulent loan documents falsifying the income of primarily Hispanic clients in Northern Virginia, resulting in \$7.4 million in profits and causing more than \$15 million in losses to lenders.
Source: <http://patch.com/virginia/manassas/ex-fugitive-pleads-guilty-74m-mortgage-fraud-0>
7. *August 20, WCBS 2 New York City* – (New York) **FBI, NYPD seek ‘Taxi Cab Bandit’ suspected in 6 bank robberies in New York.** Authorities are offering a reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a suspect dubbed the “Taxi Cab Bandit” who allegedly robbed 6 New York City banks, including a Santander Bank August 19.
Source: <http://newyork.cbslocal.com/2015/08/20/fbi-nypd-see-taxi-cab-bandit-suspected-in-6-bank-robberies-in-new-york/>
8. *August 20, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission* – (International) **SEC charges Florida man with participating in international boiler room fraud.** The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission charged a West Pam Beach, Florida man August 20 for his role in an international “boiler room”-type offering fraud in which callers from Southeast Asia solicited \$1.5 million from 58 investors in 14 countries for supposed U.S. securities purchases via a non-existent broker-dealer, named Gruber and Green, Inc. The funds were distributed between personal accounts of the suspect and bank accounts in Asia.
Source: <http://www.sec.gov/litigation/litreleases/2015/lr23325.htm>

Transportation Systems Sector

9. *August 21, Temple Daily Telegram* – (Texas) **Accident shuts down highway.** State Highway 53 between Mockingbird Hill Lane and FM 3117 in Texas was shut down for over 7 hours August 20 after a semi-truck and a garbage truck collided, spilling debris, fuel, and liquid asphalt on the road. The driver of the semi-truck was hospitalized and an investigation into the accident is ongoing.
Source: http://www.tdtnews.com/news/article_579e36d2-47b4-11e5-b80f-6f4199d6beed.html
10. *August 20, Flathead Beacon; Associated Press* – (Montana) **Highway 2 closed near**

Essex as firefighters battle 232-acre wildfire. A seven-mile stretch of Highway 2 near Essex, Montana, was closed indefinitely August 20 while crews battled the 232-acre Sheep Fire burning near Glacier National Park. Crews battled at least 12 other fires in the State that have burned over 15,000 acres and continue to threaten hundreds of homes and structures.

Source: <http://flatheadbeacon.com/2015/08/20/firefighters-prepare-for-a-tense-and-busy-day/>

11. *August 19, Hutchinson News* – (Kansas; Missouri) **Kismet postal worker indicted for allegedly stealing mail.** A U.S. Postal Service worker from the Kismet Post Office was charged the week of August 17 for allegedly stealing gift cards from mail addressed to a Colorado resident and a Missouri resident in April and May.

Source: http://www.hutchnews.com/news/courts_and_cops/kismet-postal-worker-indicted-for-allegedly-stealing-mail/article_9619c7d4-8a9b-546e-9a8e-ceda9a46eba6.html

For another story, see item [3](#)

Food and Agriculture Sector

12. *August 21, U.S. Food and Drug Administration* – (National) **Chetak New York L.L.C. recalls 14.1 oz. jar of “Deep Coriander Powder” because of possible health risk.** New Jersey-based Chetak New York L.L.C. issued a recall August 20 for 300 jars of its Deep Coriander Powder packaged in 14.1 ounce jars due to potential Salmonella contamination found during routine testing. The products were distributed nationwide from July to August.

Source: <http://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/ucm459332.htm>

13. *August 21, Southeast Missourian* – (Missouri) **USDA temporarily halts slaughtering at Fruitland Meat.** The Food Safety and Inspection Service temporarily halted slaughter operations at Fruitland American Meat in Missouri August 21. Officials reported that the facility is still conducting a limited amount of processing while authorities are investigating alleged humane handling violations at the slaughter plant.

Source: <http://www.semissourian.com/story/2223453.html>

Water and Wastewater Systems Sector

14. *August 20, WNEP 16 Scranton* – (Pennsylvania) **Boil water advisory issued in Luzerne County.** Pennsylvania American Water issued a precautionary boil water advisory August 20 for approximately 10,000 customers in Kingston, Edwardsville, Forty Fort, and parts of Wilkes-Barre, Swoyersville, and Luzerne, after crews repaired a 30-inch water main that broke August 18.

Source: <http://wnep.com/2015/08/20/boil-water-advisory-issued-in-luzerne-county/>

Healthcare and Public Health Sector

15. *August 21, New York Daily News* – (New York) **Legionnaires’ disease outbreak in**

the South Bronx officially over: NYC health commissioner. The New York City health commissioner announced August 20 that the South Bronx outbreak of Legionnaires' disease that killed a dozen people and sickened another 127 was officially over after revealing that a cooling tower at the Opera House Hotel was responsible for releasing the Legionella bacteria in July. Federal health officials also identified 14 South Bronx sites that tested positive for the bacteria, and were subsequently disinfected.

Source: <http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/legionnaires-disease-outbreak-south-bronx-article-1.2332192>

16. *August 21, WSLs 10 Roanoke* – (Virginia) **14 Carilion employees reprimanded, fired after unlawfully accessing patient medical records.** Carilion Clinic in Roanoke announced that 11 of its employees based in New River Valley and three of its employees based in Roanoke were reprimanded, and/or fired after learning that the workers accessed patient medical records without proper authorization or legitimate patient-care needs. An investigation into the incident is ongoing.

Source: <http://wsls.com/2015/08/20/14-carilion-employees-reprimanded-fired-after-unlawfully-accessing-patient-medical-records/>

17. *August 20, SC Magazine* – (Colorado) **Colorado's OIT notifies 3,000 residents of data breach.** Over 3,000 residents were notified by Colorado's Office of Information Technology (OIT) August 17 after a technical error resulted in letters containing the residents' personal, financial, and medical information being mailed to the wrong address between May and June. The OIT fixed the issue and implemented additional quality control checks.

Source: <http://www.scmagazine.com/colorados-oit-notifies-3000-residents-of-data-breach/article/433888/>

For another story, see item [26](#)

Government Facilities Sector

18. *August 21, Los Angeles Times* – (Washington) **Washington state residents and officials are worried about fires and money to fight them.** Fire crews battled at least 15 fires in Washington that have combined, burned over 400,000 acres by August 21, destroyed at least 100 homes and structures, and prompted the evacuation of thousands of residents.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/nation/la-na-washington-wildfires-20150821-story.html>

19. *August 21, USA Today* – (New York) **Three hurt in blast at New York City high school.** A gas line explosion August 20 at John F. Kennedy High School in New York City left 3 construction workers with serious injuries and damaged 3 floors of the building. Engineers reported to the site to check the structural integrity of the building and officials worked to assess the total amount of damage.

Source: <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2015/08/20/high-school-bronx-explosion/32091481/>

20. *August 20, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department* – (Texas) **State parks recovering after torrential Memorial Day floods.** Four Texas parks remained closed August 20 due to heavy flooding caused by severe storms the weekend of May 23. Officials continue to assess the total amount of damage in order to begin restoration and clean up efforts.
Source: <http://tpwd.texas.gov/newsmedia/releases/?req=20150820c>
21. *August 20, KSLA 12 Shreveport* – (Arkansas) **Wreck involving school bus, utility truck hurts at least nine.** An August 20 accident involving 4 vehicles including a school bus, sent at least 9 people to an area hospital with injuries after the vehicles collided at an intersection in Texarkana, Arkansas.
Source: <http://www.wmcactionnews5.com/story/29846279/wreck-involving-school-bus-injures-at-least-nine>
22. *August 20, Providence Journal* – (Rhode Island) **URI says data breach involves some 3,000 email accounts.** The FBI is assisting August 20 in an investigation into a breach of the University of Rhode Island's email account records, which would have given hackers access to the email addresses and passwords of about 3,000 university email accounts. School officials stated that thieves may have also gained access to students' private email account passwords.
Source: <http://www.providencejournal.com/article/20150820/NEWS/150829905>

For additional stories, see items [10](#) and [26](#)

Emergency Services Sector

23. *August 20, CNN* – (New York) **New York inmate indicted for prison escape.** An inmate who escaped from Clinton Correctional Facility in New York June 6 was indicted and charged August 20 after authorities shot and recaptured the inmate near the Canadian border June 28 while he was on the run. The inmate escaped from the prison in an elaborate scheme with a fellow inmate and the aid of prison workers.
Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2015/08/20/us/new-york-prison-escape-sweat/index.html>

Information Technology Sector

24. *August 21, Securityweek* – (International) **Thousands of hacked WordPress sites abused in Neutrino EK attacks.** Security researchers from Zscaler discovered a malware campaign in which cybercriminals have compromised over 2,600 WordPress 4.2 and prior Web sites in August by planting malicious iframes with redirects to Neutrino exploit kit (EK) landing pages. The Neutrino landing page exploits Adobe Flash Player vulnerabilities to inject CryptoWall 3.0 ransomware on victims' computers.
Source: <http://www.securityweek.com/thousands-hacked-wordpress-sites-abused-neutrino-ek-attacks>
25. *August 20, Agence France-Presse* – (International) **New data leaked from 'cheater' site Ashley Madison.** Vice Media reported that Impact Team hackers released 20 gigabytes (GB) worth of data August 20 related to a July Ashley Madison discrete

dating Web site breach. The release, containing internal corporate data and emails, follows an August 18 data dump of 32 million emails and user account information from the Web site.

Source: <http://www.securityweek.com/new-data-leaked-cheater-site-ashley-madison>

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web site: <http://www.us-cert.gov>

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Web site: <http://www.it-isac.org>

Communications Sector

26. *August 20, KJCT 8 Grand Junction* – (Colorado) **Widespread Charter outage hits Mesa County.** Overnight road construction in Mesa County, Colorado, August 19 damaged a Charter Communications fiber optic cable, temporarily disabling Internet access businesses, residents, and schools for several hours. The State Department of Human Services and The Workforce Center was closed due to the outage.
Source: <http://www.kjct8.com/home/headlines/Widespread-Charter-outage-hits-Mesa-County-322291762.html>

Commercial Facilities Sector

27. *August 21, KNBC 4 Los Angeles* – (California) **High-rise explosion knocks out power in downtown LA buildings.** About 13 buildings in Los Angeles remained without power August 21 due to an explosion at a high-rise building that left 4 people injured August 20. The high-rise building was “red-tagged” and deemed temporarily unfit for occupation, while the cause of the explosion remains under investigation.
Source: <http://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/Fire-Standard-Hotel-Downtown-322480471.html?4589>
28. *August 21, WBAL 11 Baltimore* – (Maryland) **Residents displaced in southeast Baltimore apartment fire.** An August 21, 2-alarm fire that began on the third floor of an apartment unit at Holabird Manor Apartments in Baltimore displaced up to 50 residents. One resident was injured in the fire.
Source: <http://www.wbalv.com/news/residents-displaced-in-southeast-baltimore-apartment-fire/34839526>

For additional stories, see items [2](#) and [3](#)

Dams Sector

See item [20](#)



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